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EFFECTIVE PROVISIONS FOR GRAIN CONSUMPTION
IN RURAL AREAS

- COMMUNIST CHINA -

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EFFECTIVE PROVISIONS FOR GRAIN CONSUMPTION
IN RURAL AREAS

- COMMUNIST CHINA -

[Following is the translation of an editorial in Ta Kung Pao, Peiping, 8 August 1960, page 1]

Making provisions for grain consumption in rural areas is one of the most important duties confronting our party as grain represents a key factor in the people's nourishment. These provisions therefore, under the guidance of the various party committees, play a very important role.

Conditions of the work connected with the food problems during this time of the year differ considerably from those of the past year. At present all villages have established mess halls, and the degree of collectivization of life of the members of communes has been greatly raised. In order to carry out a well thought out policy and the aims of the grain arrangement, it has to be approached from the practical and realistic point of view, and the crops raised by the people's commune in rural areas must be put under government control and management. Therefore, the government is responsible for the provisions for grain in the people's communes.

The party regards agriculture as the basis of the state economy and since the time when the party pronounced its battle slogan, "agriculture is the first and foremost foundation" the consolidated villages, using their titanic power, have thrown their combined efforts into the struggle for better sowing, harvesting, and better management of their fields. The intensity of the efforts of the masses is very great and the greater is the masses' power, the greater the care which has to be taken of their life. When the nourishment of the members of communes is well arranged, then they will have enough food and they will manage their production better. In order to provide them with enough food to last out the whole year, it is necessary during the year to make use of the following three periods: first, the time when the autumn harvest is gathered; second, the intermediate period (between the sowing and harvesting); and third, the period after the summer harvest. At present the summer crop is already har-

vested and this is the proper moment to make arrangements for grain consumption. Now the villages have newly harvested grain, but because the summer harvest is usually much smaller than that of the autumn, it is necessary to distribute the grain in such a way that the farmer's food ration will last up to the time when the autumn crop is in. Therefore, following the principle "economize and lay aside while eating your fill", and reserving some grain for taxes, we must be sure that sufficient grain be left to provide the members of communes with their food rations, and at the same time helping them to plan their consumption of the grain allotted to them in such a way that the rations would last them until the autumn harvest. This will further encourage the masses in striving for a better harvest in the autumn, which is of great importance. The question of nourishment is the most important problem in the life of the people. Therefore, while taking care of the masses, it is necessary first of all to make arrangements for the grain consumption of the people. Likening the struggle for better production to the struggle for improvement of life, it is necessary that we, with our breasts full of enthusiasm and with a sense of duty, do our best in the provisions for grain consumption in rural areas.

As far as the work regarding grain consumption is concerned, the main point of it could naturally be found in the increase of grain production, for if the production is increased then a material base is established and consumption can be arranged. This year the output of the spring crop in comparison with the bounteous harvests of 1958 and 1959 increased considerably. However, if there is plenty of grain, but the arrangement of consumption is bad, then it may lead to a shortage of food, and conversely, when there is a slight shortage of grain but the system of supply is good, then the people's life will be comparatively easy. The Chinese adage says: "Even though there is enough food to eat and enough clothes to wear, if your estimates and calculations are bad, then you will be short of these necessities during all your life". Certainly the "estimates and calculations" is a very important point. Whether production is good or bad is basically important, but under certain conditions of the state and level of production, the questions whether the food supply and its organizations are good or bad in respect to the people's life cannot fail to play their decisive role. Then the question arises of how the arrangements for grain consumption could be made. Judging by the experience gained in Nan Hsien and Linkiang Hsien and in many other localities, the following has to be done: First -- to arrange for grain consumption as soon as a new crop is harvested and do it thoroughly, subjecting it to repeated checking. This job had to be done with a sense of responsibility -- never treat the organization of people's life in a halfhearted manner. Experience shows that when new grain appears, unless waste of it takes place, and unless immediate steps to secure the grain allotted for consumption are taken, then an "easy-going at the start and rushing in the end" situation will result. Nan Hsien and Linkiang Hsien

begin their organization of consumption as soon as the new crop is harvested, and by so doing fully ensure the nourishment of the members of communes. This year the districts producing winter wheat had their grain partly allotted for payment of taxes, partly for farmers' consumption, this job being done very efficiently and in a smooth manner. The districts which produce early rice and spring wheat must make good use of the experience gained by the areas growing winter wheat. Second, when allotting grain for the purpose of supply and consumption, a surplus of grain has to be reserved. Grain production in our country since the establishment of the Republic has greatly increased, but the requirements for food grain have also increased. Although the level of the people's grain consumption has been correspondingly raised, it cannot, generally speaking, be considered large enough. Further, despite the fact that the ability of our country to prevent calamities of nature is growing and has already resulted in the diminishing of their influence, we are still not able to control them fully. Therefore, while allocating grain for supply and consumption, we have to be very careful to follow the policy of leaving a supply of grain in reserve. We should not consume as much food as we can produce and we ought to live in a year of plenty in a manner as if we were living in a year of deficiency. This year some areas suffered from drought and floods, and at present the farmers do their best in sowing operations under condition of drought, and are increasing their care of their farms so as to save the harvest. Besides, while exerting themselves in their production work, they have to be prepared to prevent their land, which has already been badly affected by drought, from becoming waste again. The rice-harvesting areas, which were saved from the consequences of drought, must consume their grain sparingly, helping city folks and the people of other areas. When the summer harvest is gathered and the members of communes are thus being provided with grain, it is necessary that the Government undertake strict control over the crop allotted for supply, to reduce the sale of it as much as possible. During this time when provisions are made for grain consumption, all further efforts must be directed to the work to be done from the moment when the autumn harvest is gathered and until the end of the year. The estimated quantity of the grain required and of the grain to be saved, must correspond to the quantity allotted for consumption, and this will represent a basic method which will enable farmers to have enough food to eat and lay aside. This method fully corresponds to the farmers' interests. In this case a clear explanation to them is necessary and they undoubtedly will support this measure. Third, the main meaning of arrangements for the farmers' life is to supply them with food rations, and the principal point of this work is the establishment of mess-halls. Under existing circumstances, the question of mess-hall establishment has two points -- first, mess halls and kitchens for the members of the administration, and second, the kitchens of the lower and middle classes depend on the

degree of poverty of the farmers. Speaking about these two points, we must come to the conclusion that as far as the establishment of mess halls is concerned, political guidance has to be considerably strengthened. Facts prove that when the mess halls are badly organized, anger is expressed. Therefore the better we solve this question the better the results will be. At the same time we must utilize to the full extent the farmers' personal agricultural plots on which good vegetables can be grown and good pigs can be bred. Cultivation of vegetables must be done in accordance with a yearly plan during each season and month so as to ensure vegetable crops for the whole year. With plenty of vegetables, the people's nourishment would be better and a saving of grain could be attained.

This year summer work in connection with the grain problem was done under very favorable conditions, and many areas having obtained surplus grain, began to pay serious attention to day-to-day arrangements. However, there are some localities which have not as yet performed their jobs in this respect. It must be said that the life's arrangement can greatly stimulate the advance of production, and as grain is a factor in the farmer's life, it represents a great power in helping growth of production. Arrangement of one's life is a delicate and complicated job, which requires solution of many practical and ideological problems. Therefore it is necessary for all leaders of the various party committees connected with grain problems to approach these problems in their practical aspects, to go deeper into the masses, to go to the front line of life, mess halls and kitchens, to discuss these problems with the masses and have them immediately resolved. As every job is composed of many separate links of coordinated effort, the failure in the attainment of success in one link would affect the solution of a particular question and in consequence the solution of the entire problem. The facts prove that only through close contact with the masses is it possible to solve successfully the large and small problems of life arrangement.

FOR REASONS OF SPEED AND ECONOMY
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